

St. Michael's Annual Meeting

February 4, 2024



2024 Annual Report

Table Of Contents

Rector’s Report—The Rev. Jesse Perkins	5-7
Assistant Rector Report—The Rev. Jim Swarthout	8
Deacon’s Report—The Rev. Tim Murray	9-10
 Ministry Reports:	
<i>Parish & Community Life</i>	
Vision Team, Foyers Ministry	13-14
 <i>Christian Formation</i>	
Sunday School , LIFT, Women’s Tuesday Morning / Evening Bible Study, Men’s Fellowship, Little Angels Christian Preschool , Stewardship, Adult Formation	15-23
 <i>Pastoral Care</i>	
Prayer Shawl Ministry ,Pastoral Care Team/ HLEM	24-25
 <i>Outreach</i>	
Renk Ministry, Rebuilding Together, Outreach Team, Barrington Giving Days, Peace and Justice	26-33
 <i>Worship</i>	
Acolytes, Altar Guild, Ushers, TechCrew , Choir & Music Ministry ,Lay Eucharist, Lectors	34-44
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	45



Rector's Report —The Rev. Jesse Perkins

“Here's to the next 75 years!”

My friends in Christ, this 75th year at St. Michael's Church has been one of the best ones I have experienced to date. I have been brought much joy serving and ministering with you this year, and I can only say that the next 75 years has begun on the best note.

Our attendance is slowly regrowing after the COVID years; I do not think any of us knew how much of an impact the pandemic would have on churches (and indeed many other institutions). What we and so many other churches are seeing is that in addition to our culture becoming more secular, churchgoers have changed their own attendance habits since March of 2020. The result is that growth is slower, and average Sunday attendance is lower in proportion to active membership. In 2023, we saw a 10% increase in in-person attendance when compared to 2022; a few more years like this and we will find our way back to pre-pandemic numbers. If you add in virtual attendance, our average Sunday participation is now higher than it was in 2019. (I do think, however, that in person and virtual attendance cannot easily be compared, and are “apples to oranges” so to speak)

Outreach continues to be a strong part of the St. Michael's ethos, and one of its core values. Not only were we once again able to give away 10% of our pledge and plate income (in addition to the 10% given to the diocese), we collected items for the Reverse Advent Calendar, brought in several guest preachers from our partner organizations, and conducted several food drives throughout the year. Good work, Outreach Committee! Among the many ways St. Michael's helps others is a new ministry called Rebuild Chicago- thanks to the leaders of that ministry, and watch for the next opportunity in April to help rebuild a house in Chicago. I remain proud of this parish for its work in this area.

Overall we are in a stable financial position, although the annual budget is showing an operating deficit for this year. You will need to talk with our treasurer, John Davis, for details, but even with a deficit we will have a pretty regular year financially if our historical trends continue. In the unlikely event a deficit budget becomes an actual deficit year, we have some cash reserves to buy us some time to make deliberate decisions rather than knee-jerk reactions. From my perspective as rector, maintaining course as long as possible is the best way to push through this regrowth and transitional phase. Any drastic changes in the budget would mean a reorganization of our current staff and volunteer structures, which would set us back a couple of years while we all adapted to the change. The deficit this year is a product of the tension between good financial stewardship, and also the pursuit of faith-based growth in our ministries and worship. We ended 2023 in a financially positive position, and were able to increase our giving to the Diocese and Outreach to fulfill our 10% commitments. 2023 surplus was added to our building fund to prepare for the inevitable replacement of another aging HVAC unit.

More important than numbers is what we have fondly called the “Joy Quotient.” This fall, we have set new “high water marks” for our joy together in worship. I am very grateful to our staff and volunteers for their dedication and faithfulness, and it has been a blessing to see many new faces in our pews, and to see parishioners of all ages praying together. Christmas Eve and All Souls' Requiem services this year were two of the best in my book- thank you so much for making these deeply moving and meaningful services. Another service worth mentioning was the ecumenical service held at Salem United Methodist Church on Good Friday- what a holy and solemn moment of prayer with other Christians in Barrington on one of the most holy of days.

Each of these worship services were greatly enhanced by our music ministries. I hope we can do this again in the future with our neighboring brothers and sisters in Christ. Lastly, I am so very proud of our new acolytes who now serve at our altar, and for everyone involved in our children and youth ministries.

When we began 2023 together, my focus was in three areas: to celebrate our 75th anniversary together in the best possible fashion; to begin raising money that will create a permanent fund for our building and grounds; and to begin a visioning process to guide our footsteps as we move forward. Progress was made in each area, and I want to begin by again thanking our 75th anniversary party committee for their great and fantastic work with the Kickoff Potluck, the Gala, and also the Bishop's visit. What a fantastic time to be here with you as your rector when we can celebrate such a milestone. Many things change, but the ability to have fun together is a must always. On a personal note, it was a huge blessing to me as a person and priest to have some fun with you all in the skit during the Gala. I continue to remain grateful for all the hard work and many people behind the scenes who made that opportunity possible. The ability to laugh, and especially laugh at ourselves, is one of the keys to a happy life and joyful faith.

I also shared a dream last year of a permanent fund that with a principle balance of three million dollars would forever sustain our building and grounds, and preserve our brick and mortar as a place for ministry for future generations. With a fund like this, the facilities at 647 Dundee Ave would always be "home base" and the "launching pad" for God's work in this area and beyond under the banner of St. Michael. Progress with this goal is moving a little slower than I hoped, but progress is being made. Fundraising is slow when the Rector is the primary "development officer" of the parish! However, I am grateful for the conversations that I have had the ones to come to make this vision a reality. I hope to one day be able to say to future parishioners of St. Michael's, "this building is our gift to you forever- you will always be able to serve God and God's Kingdom under this roof." When St. Michael's celebrates 150 years here, I want them to give thanks to God for the generosity that will go into creating this permanent fund.

In addition to looking at the road behind us, we must look forward to the path in front of us. The Psalmist says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," so we pray for God to light our path as we move into the next 75 years. I called together a Vision team to pray and work with me to try and develop a guiding principle for our work over the next few years. I am grateful to God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit within this group's work, and I believe we have come to a vision that has been exciting and challenging to me as your rector: "St. Michael's: A Place of God's Healing." How can we go even deeper and even further into God's redemptive healing of the world here at St. Michael's? How can those who come through our doors find God's healing, and how can we go out into the world and be a part of the healing God is already doing all around us? These are the new questions that I would like us to think about as we enter 2024, and the next few years. This vision was developed through prayer and conversation, and reflecting upon the priorities outlined in the Congregational Survey in 2022. By carefully reflecting on the work that St. Michael's is already known for, and with considering of our hopes and goals for a vibrant parish in the future, we want to be a place focused on healing. Coming very soon the Vision Team will be conducting some small group meetings where we will want to hear from you! How do you see St. Michael's being a place of God's healing, and a source of healing for the world?

We all know that St. Michael the archangel fights evil and seeks to bring justice to our world. Did you also know that St. Micheal is venerated as a healer? One of the earliest sanctuaries built in the early fourth century in Chalcedon associates St. Micheal with healing waters. It is even said in the Eastern Orthodox Church, that Michael appeared after John the Apostle preached at Cheertopa, and a pilgrim built a church there in thanksgiving for the healing his daughter received. It is in this tradition that we continue God's healing in the world in the name of St. Michael.

Several initiatives have already fallen in to place: Fr. Jim Swarthout has joined our staff part time (no annual budget impact), and will be assisting me on the altar and in pastoral care. Additionally, Fr. Jim has offered to begin a Saturday evening service, and we are looking for creative ways he can bring his vast experience with addiction treatment to our ministries at St. Michael's.

I am also looking for ways to partner with the Barrington Youth and Family Services to host a couple of sessions here at St. Michael's to help build knowledge and resilience to our members during the dark winter days, and also in anticipation of a stressful election year. Emotional and mental health is a very important aspect, and this is a great way we can promote God's healing in these ways. Lastly, there are very early plans of a walk/run event at St. Michael's to bring more healing and health to our physical bodies. Combine these new things with our worship, youth, and children's events, outreach, and upcoming Bible studies and adult formation opportunities, and you get St. Micheal's as a place for God's healing: spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally, but within our walls and beyond. Go be like St. Michael!

75 years... of hope, prayer, and healing. And here's to the next 75 years!

Yours in Christ,
Jesse+



The Assistant Rector's Report —The Rev. Jim Swarthout

Dear St. Michael's Faith Community,

Surprise and Delight!

When I first began supplying for Jesse and participating in the St. Michael faith community, I had no idea about the incredible spirit that thrives here! Consequently, Claudia and I were pleasantly surprised when, upon my retirement, St. Michael's extended a warm welcome for us to continue supporting this wonderful community.

Allow me to share a bit about us in a concise manner. Claudia spent 21 years as a Roman Catholic sister, while I served as a Roman Catholic Priest for 14 years. Life's journey often surprises us with love and unexpected turns. We have been happily married for 25 years and reside here in Barrington Hills. Although God did not bless us with children, we are blessed with 71 nieces and nephews, emphasizing the significance of family in our lives.

Claudia, a retired music teacher, and I, having worked and ministered in Behavioral Health Medicine and addiction issues for over 40 years, recently served as the Director of Behavioral Health Medicine with Amita/Ascension Hospitals and Rosecrance Behavioral Health. In retirement, I am involved in consulting for hospitals and treatment centers nationwide, leveraging my extensive experience gained from presenting and lecturing.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Jesse, Tim, and the staff at St. Michael's. You are indeed fortunate to have a team that is open, compassionate, and imaginative in advancing the mission of Jesus and St. Michael's.

As I embark on this new chapter in my ministry, I am eager to collaborate with each of you, working towards fostering a sense of community, love, and compassion within our parish. Together, I am confident that we can create a place of worship that is not only spiritually enriching but also inclusive and supportive.

My commitment is to serve with dedication, empathy, and an open heart. I aspire to be a resource for each member of the parish, providing guidance, support, and a listening ear. I am here to learn from you, grow with you, and share in the joys and challenges that life may bring.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts, concerns, or ideas you may have. I am excited to get to know each of you and to work collaboratively in building a thriving and vibrant community.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. My heart is filled with gratitude, and I eagerly anticipate the rewarding journey that lies ahead.

Peace and every good,

Fr. Jim



Deacon's Report—The Reverend Tim Murray, Deacon

To the Community of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Barrington

From The Reverend Tim Murray, Deacon

Dear siblings in Christ,

To begin, I acknowledge gratefully the several ways that St. Michael's practices the diakonia of all baptized persons. From a long-abiding commitment to pledge outreach sums in the annual budget, to the quarterly food drives, to the several outside ministries supported by our Outreach Committee and the Peace and Justice Committee, to gathering clothing for underprivileged local school children, to Christmas baskets for families in need, to And All The Angels' support for agencies supporting women and children, alongside numerous individual initiatives you make by volunteer effort or with financial support, or both. I feel privileged to witness many of the ways St. Michael's walks the walk of being the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement, fulfilling the Baptismal Covenant promise to respect the dignity of every human being, with God's help.

Building upon this tapestry of faithful service, Vestry leaders and I began focusing more systematically upon volunteerism as a keystone of St. Michael's. Thanks for your responses to survey inquiries. We hope to establish means of accounting for volunteer efforts and to help ministry leaders align needs with willing volunteers.

Worship is a cornerstone for the faithful life of this church community. I am honored to serve in proclaiming Gospels, bidding confessions, preaching every couple of months, and especially sending you forth into the world to put your faith in practice in your own fashion, inspired by Holy Spirit power. This year, I additionally joined lay leadership of St. Mark's in Barrington Hills in gathering Episcopalian residents of the Garlands for worship on the first Fridays of the month.

Occasionally, Father Jesse and I field requests from individual charity seekers. This past year I fielded no less than nine such requests. Some of them are referred to agencies better suited to their needs, such as a volunteer legal services agency. Many (yet not all requesters) receive some financial support covering documented and emergent circumstances from clergy discretionary funds, in line with Episcopal Church policies.

I am pleased to have facilitated adult education offerings, particularly the remarkably successful Adult Sunday Forum begun in the Advent season between Sunday services. I anticipate we will continue that effort this coming year.

I participated in or conducted several occasional services this year. Of the memorial and interment services held this year, I participated in at least eight of them. I conducted a further interment service off site. Additionally, I prepared two couples for marriage and conducted their wedding ceremonies off site.

I serve as one of the several dedicated clergy and lay members of the parish Pastoral Care Team who hold in prayer, visit, and otherwise support numerous parishioners living with health concerns or circumstances of grief. This year has seemed particularly fulsome.

In the wider church, I served the Diocese of Chicago a couple of ways. First, I served as secretary/scribe for the Bishop's Task Force on Diaconate Ministry, resulting in a report with recommendations presented to Bishop Clark in June. Then I began service this year as Intake Officer for Clergy Discipline complaints under Title IV of the Constitution and Canons. I will be continuing in this role at Bishop Clark's request.

In the still wider church, my wife and I were pleased to attend the 50th ordination anniversary celebration in Washington D.C. for The Reverend Lloyd Alexander (Tony) Lewis, a long-time friend with my wife, a retired professor of Virginia Theological Seminary, and a beloved teacher of Bishop Clark. In April, we were pleased to be present in Cleveland, Ohio, for the ordination and consecration of Anne B. Jolly as Bishop Co-Adjutor of the Diocese of Ohio. She had served as President of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of Chicago during the interim period after Bishop Lee's retirement and the ordination and consecration of Bishop Paula Clark last year.

My commitment to continuing education was fulfilled this year with completing two classes with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, including the three sessions of multi-day classes for Clergy Clinic, and a new one-day class titled, Fractured Lives – Fractured Churches: Healing the Breach. I am in the midst of completing the three-session Advanced Clergy Clinic that began in October and will end in April. Thanks to generous supporters, I was also able to travel to Minneapolis for the annual Festival of Homiletics, for several days of excellent preaching and presentations about how to preach well.

Additionally, I continue to read and write in preparation for establishing a ministry I am planning using restorative justice practices inspired by spirituality to be located within conflict situations. I am tentatively naming this ministry, From Discord to Accord through Agape Love.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge gratefully that it was for me a deep honor to serve as temporary head of ministries during Father Jesse's sabbatical last summer. Your cooperation and encouragement made the additional responsibilities seem weightless.

Faithfully in peace,

Deacon Tim

Ministry

Reports



Vision Team 2023—Wes Kimes



Dear Parish Family

As our parish began to navigate our way through the challenges and disruptions left by the wake of COVID, Father Jesse felt a profound calling to explore the question, "*Where to from here?*" In response, a Vision Team embarked on a journey, understanding the essence of who we are, our purpose, and how we want to be known.

Throughout the past year, we met frequently reflecting on our history, our identity, understanding the needs of our parish and the communities we serve, and discern and draft a theme to guide our post-COVID parish life. This wasn't about a strategic plan; rather, it aimed to weave our collective gifts into a theme that echoes what we stand for. The fruit of this labor is a vision meant to guide Father Jesse's address at our 2024 Annual Parish Meeting and serve as a guiding principle our shared work. Here's what emerged:

We are a caring church. We meet people in times of need and that often takes the form of healing in some manner. Our role extends beyond parish walls, meeting people in times of need, offering healing during life transitions, and finding renewal in Sunday worship. This collective faith strengthens us to embark on the work the Lord has prepared us for.

Our focus on connectedness and healing is evident in so many facets of our community life — from worship and study groups to outreach efforts, partnerships, and compassionate acts like Katy's Baskets and the Reverse Advent Calendar. Fun and healing is present our fellowship, our celebrations, and in our support for each other during times of collective grief and making sense of global events.

Looking ahead, the Vision Team is eager to hear your thoughts. We will host "listening" sessions throughout the coming year. If you wish to connect with the team, please reach out to Lindsay Taylor, Amy Hoff, Bill Ferry, Doug Torbeck, Wes Kimes or Father Jesse.

Gratefully,
The Vision Team

Foyers Ministry-Contact Lynn & Forest Mayberry

Foyers is a wonderful opportunity for all members of St. Michael's, to engage in fellowship together. Foyers features 2 types of gatherings. The first type is adult Foyers and the second is family Foyers. Adult Foyers are typically 4 groups of couples/singles, that are all adults, that meet as a group in each other's homes for a simple meal, 4 times over a period of a year. Family Foyers follows the same format, but it is adults and their children that form as a group, during the year period. This is a wonderful way for adults with young kids to be able to still enjoy fellowship with other families at St. Michael's.

Sign up for the next season of Foyers begins in the early fall of each year. The groups are randomly formed, and include adult couples and singles of all ages or a family of adults and their children. There is no formal format for the group get together, other than beginning the evening with the Litany of Reconciliation, a simple meal and getting to know each other in a small group setting.

Foyers was first established in Coventry Cathedral, England. It began as a ministry of reconciliation which came from the war time bombing of Coventry Cathedral, where the nails from the destruction were formed into a cross of nails, and the words father Forgive placed behind where it hangs. The French word Foyers means hearthside, which infers the warmth of a small group sharing a common bond for each other In our St. Michael's family. It helps us to know one another, and that knowing, allows us to care about each other.



The Cross of Nails Altar at Coventry Cathedral

Sunday School—Contact Kim Curtis, Director

We have many, but one purpose of Sunday school is to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthen individuals & families through teaching, learning, and friendship. I want our kids at St. Michael's to love it! To love coming to church and Sunday school. To love learning about Jesus and spreading the word. Together with our volunteer leaders we have established a "put our kids first" philosophy.

Our 2022-2023 program offered a curriculum to support worship, discipleship, and faith formation. Our Sunday School, along with the mission of the Episcopal church, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer's, strives to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other and with Earth.

We are all blessed to be part of this special community. It is our goal to help our kids go out and be a blessing to others. To help them learn how to pray and pray for themselves and others. Recently, I was working at the Sturtz house, late in the afternoon on a Sunday. I saw a Jeep pull up into the empty parking lot then park. I wondered who it was? After watching the car for a while. A twenty something boy jumped out and went into the chapel. My thought was how amazing was that to see! He was going in to pray. He knew our chapel was the place to go because I asked him when he came out. We do not see many twenty something kids at church, but to see them come and pray was a sight – that was it!! I reflected on this simple event. That is the goal!!! I witnessed what we are trying to accomplish with these kids. It is about the future after they have gone through confirmation then actually find lifelong strength through prayer and then continue their religious education. To provide an anchor for themselves with prayer.

Whether St. Michael's Sunday School curriculum of the Bible is taught in the form of the Catechists of the Good Shepherd or Living the Good News or with our current curriculum, Mini Revolutions, we want to provide faith as an anchor. To ground them in life providing a safe church, safe community. I cannot speak for all, although, I would hope the outcome as parents is the exact same. Asking ourselves what tests do we want our children to pass in Sunday School? What is the priority? Over the years, all these years? What outcome is desired? Will they pray for themselves, others and continue their religious education after they are on their own? Do you believe?

Developing teaching standards starts with what goal do you want of the child. Teachers are trained in college to focus on the intent – the statement of purpose. Develop their own purpose, then use the curriculum to support THEIR purpose to teach. A purpose of Sunday school is to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthen individuals & families through teaching, learning, and friendship. I have said this before, I want our kids at St. Michael's to love it! To love coming to church and Sunday school. To love learning about Jesus and spreading the word. To want to come back to church and use the chapel to pray later in life.

Our teachers Jill Anderson, Katy Perkins, Paula Papamarcos, Jenna Hansen, Ellie Michaels, Brant Diechmann, Doug Torbeck and Andrea Willis all have adapted a purpose and passion for teaching, they are committed to faith and have a desire to serve. They have a love for children and a want to build a sense of community while deepening their own faith.

I am so grateful for a few special people, Sara and Doug Torbeck & Jerry Egger for amazing music. All the teacher's dedication. Marisa Boynton for her creative and hard work with the Epiphany Pageant. Judy Galliher and Andrea and Mike Willis for assisting with everything. I appreciate every single parent's time especially Jill's husband Craig Anderson who is a backup for Sunday morning prep!!! Thank you for everyone's effort in making our Sunday school so kid friendly, inviting, loving and the reason we gather to deepen our kid's relationships with Jesus.

Let us celebrate another successful year! We are blessed beyond words to continue expanding this program and offer these children events:

Epiphany Pageant
Journey thru Holy Week - Good Friday
Easter Egg Hunt
Special Lent worship services for children – Ash Wednesday
Palm Sunday - Stations of the Cross for kids
Children's choir
Advent wreath making
St. Nicholas day celebration
Christmas Eve children's service
Blessings of the Animals
Spooky Halloween event
Blessing of backpacks/technology
First/Solemn Communion – every 3 years
Kids stewardship campaign
Youth Sunday
Summer Sunday school – June, July and August
Vacation Bible school the last week of July

JR/SR LIFT ANNUAL REPORT - 2024-Contact Kay Lewis

The Lift program (Living in Faith Together) continues to grow and change with the needs of our families and the many diverse schedules we try to accommodate.

We have a total of **17** regular students from 6th-12 grades (**9** – SR. LIFTers, & **8** – JR. LIFTers)! While we graduated three seniors last year, we had a wonderful influx of five new LIFTers in the 6th grade. We've had **8 different** LIFTers attend the SR. LIFT night. Our Sunday morning attendance averages around **6.8** LIFTers a week. (Just think lots of 6, 7's and 8's.) This year, our empty classes are the 8th and 11th grades that have no students. I am very grateful for this regular core group of devoted LIFTers (aka *devoted parents*) that bring them as much as possible.

We've continued our successful experiment from last year and have a once-a-month exclusive Sr. LIFT night just for the older high school group to have their own time.

Last summer, due to late planning and busy schedules, we did not have an organized mission/service project per say. However, each student was encouraged to go out and make a difference in their own world and neighborhood.

We continued with our annual Pumpkin Patch in October. We thank everyone in the parish who helps us unload and all of you who purchased our pumpkins. We took on a really large family this year for Katie's Christmas Baskets and the kids knocked it out of the park shopping for this family on our field trip to Target.

Our Sunday morning lessons continue to be centered around the day's lectionary as I try to bring the scripture alive to them. We're also doing some memory work this year, which is greatly aided by flying, Hershey's Chocolate Kisses.

I cannot stress how much I enjoy teaching our youth. I've also had wonderful Board support on Sunday mornings (Michelle Chan and Mary Ann Seagrist) who are my co-teachers. We said good bye to several board members last year but have added three vibrant individuals which give us more depth. I am grateful for their commitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Lewis, LIFT Leader

Michelle Chan
Una Colohan-Thomasson (new)
John Garcia (new)
Fr. Jesse Perkins
Mary Ann Seagrist
Gwen Weibel (new)

Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Spirited Sisters Ministry-Sally Smith

Women of all ages and places are warmly invited to join the Spirited Sisters Tuesday evening women's Bible study for Lenten and fall Bible-based book studies, as well as social gatherings. Each meeting is intentionally structured as a stand-alone session so that participation can be flexible and participants can come whenever they are able. Bring a friend, neighbor or relative and enjoy fellowship, conversation, prayer, shared insights, life applications, or wherever the spirit leads us, as we grow together amongst women of faith. You will be able to participate even if you haven't read the chapter. This group took its roots at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in the fall of 2008. It was formed through the inspiration of Sue Barnum and is co-facilitated by Sally Smith. Spirited Sisters began as a group of seventeen faith-filled women who had very busy daytime schedules and were interested in a biblically based book study that met in the evenings. The group is currently comprised of women from St. Michael's as well as members of other local churches. The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. If you would like to come learn, laugh and pray with us any time, just contact Sally Smith at 847-274-4622 or Sue Barnum at 847-401-3050.

Men's Fellowship-Lou Longo

The Men's Fellowship group continues to meet on Friday mornings in the Community Room at 6 AM for coffee and conversation. The group is open to St Michaels and Barrington area community members wishing to share the life of Christian men in a social way and judgment free safe space. What is said within our time together stays within our circle. There is no preparation or homework, and no attendance requirements or guilt is ever presented. We maintain a WhatsApp chat group for interim conversation and updates on weather impacting our meetings. You may join this group too. Although it is an early start you are welcome to drop in or leave at any point as we usually meet until about 7:30 and members come and go through out that 90-minute period. If interested drop by for some coffee and a chance to meet some very welcoming and kind men. For questions contact Lou Longo at lou@longo2.com

Little Angels Christian Preschool—Caren Hunter, Director

Little Angels Christian Preschool was founded in 1998 as a Ministry of St. Michael's Episcopal Church. This school year the preschool ministry serves ninety-four families not only from St. Michael's Church, but also the community at large. We are an early childhood center which successfully prepares children for entry into Barrington District 220 and surrounding school districts. Little Angels is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Little Angels employs eighteen staff members who have an average tenure of ten years. They are all CPR/First Aid trained yearly, and participate in twenty continuing education hours yearly. There are currently 109 children enrolled at Little Angels.

Little Angels preschool curriculum is based on sound early childhood principles which encourage, foster and facilitate learning in all areas of a young child's development. The developmentally appropriate curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all children and is interlaced with Christian principles and Christian values. The Christian education element of the curriculum is taught by Father Jesse Perkins and Father Jim Swarthout. Father Jesse and Father Jim tell the three- and four-year-old children a short Christian message, along with a few songs and prayers.

In addition to monthly Chapel Time, the children receive a weekly visit from our music teacher, Julia Wen. Ms. Wen meets with each class individually in the community room to introduce the children to music of all genres, give them the opportunity to move to the music and to experience different kinds of musical instruments. The four-year-old children have a Spanish teacher, Debby West, visit the classroom for a full Spanish immersion class thirty minutes each week. Also available are our extended day options which include Lunch Pals and Enrichment classes in the afternoon. The lunch pals program offers a social experience where the children bring their own lunches and share a meal together. Afternoon Enrichment classes offer the children enriched experiences with science, art, math and abc's.

Little Angels philosophy encourages and promotes parent involvement and, as such, provides a number of activities and programs for the preschool families. There is an Ice Cream Social in September, our annual Adult Only Fundraiser in the fall, holiday classroom parties throughout the year, a Christmas program and fellowship in December, the Book Fair in February, a week of activities during the Week of the Young Child in April including our annual Family Fun Night held at St. Michaels, and ending the year with our Family Picnic at Langendorf Park on the last day of school.

Little Angels also participates in donation drives all year long. We collect donations for Barrington Giving Day, St. Cyprian Food Pantry, and Home of the Sparrow Ministry supporting homeless women and children in our area to name a few.

This year at our annual Fundraiser Auction we were able to raise the funds to purchase new technology for the classroom teachers and the Preschool office.

We also offer a Summer Camp program during the months of June and July. This camp is open to all children in the community aged 2 -5 years old. Each week is focused on a theme and provides non-academic, fun-filled experiences for the children.

Little Angels is blessed with a wonderful, caring and dedicated staff, a generous parent community and a supportive St. Michael's congregation and church staff. Our vision for the future is to continue to grow the preschool enrollment and provide an environment where every family and child feels welcome and loved when they enter our school.

Adult Formation - The Rev. Tim Murray

During 2023, we conducted three groups of adult formation opportunities. In January, we concluded the deacon's presentations on prayer practices that had begun in Advent with a session on Labyrinth Prayer.

In February and March, we conducted clergy-led sessions of preparation for Confirmation, Reception or Renewal of Baptismal Covenant, anticipating upcoming Confirmation services.

In December, we conducted popular presentations between Sunday services by parishioners with interests in topics such as "Artificial Intelligence and God" and "The Gospel of Jesus," a book from the movement for the search for an historical Jesus. We appreciate the interest and energy of Bernice McCarthy and Randy Lewis. We hope other parishioners will offer similar presentations about their faith/spiritual interests in 2024.

Stewardship 2023-2024– Marisa Boynton

Our 2023-2024 Stewardship initiative kicked off October 22nd, building on the momentum of the exciting 75th Anniversary celebrations. We had two lovely speakers from our congregation, Kerry Kean and Kirck Chan, who shared their insights on what stewardship at St. Michael's means to them. The culmination on November 12th featured the Rev. Wes Smedley from Saint Leonard's Ministries, delivering a compelling address. The day concluded with a luncheon in the community room, attended by over a hundred parishioners. Pledges are still streaming in, and we hold steadfast that the St. Michael's community will continue to support the remarkable work of our parish.

Tuesday Morning Womens' Bible Study Group– Nancy Seth/Kay Lewis

The Tuesday Morning Womens' Bible Study provides a wonderful opportunity for women to get to know each other in warm and welcoming group. The group has practical and rousing discussions about how a particular Bible passage, a book or an article applies to our spiritual journey and our life in the world today. We also support each other by sharing blessings and prayer requests each week.

This year, we are studying a fascinating book called Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ, by Debie Thomas. We are learning about the radical and sometimes scandalous message and actions of Jesus, who is not afraid to join us in the complicated and sometimes messy parts of real life.

We meet every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sturtz House. About 20 women are participating this year. The majority of them are St. Michaels' parishioners, but some come from Holy Apostles and the wider Barrington area community. No prior Bible study experience is necessary.

For more information, please contact Nancy Seth at ncseth35@hotmail.com or Kay Lewis at kaylewis1029@gmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry–Vicky Ridges

Prayer Shawls have a long history in Christianity and have been used in various ways.

Some churches use them during baptism and other religious ceremonies while others use them as gifts to those who are ill or suffering. Many find comfort in wearing one during times of stress or illness.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the last Tuesday of each month in the library from 6-7:30pm. All are welcome - no experience is needed.



Pastoral Care Team/HLEM-Lynn & Forest Mayberry

Home Lay Eucharistic Ministry, HLEM had a leadership transition in 2023. Donna Brooks, after many fine years, passed the baton to me Forest Mayberry. Lynn and I have been active with HLEM already for several years. HLEM is akin to Foyers for fellowship. But it is even more special because as a lay person we share the eucharist with parishioners unable to attend church due to illness.

I am happy to report two new volunteers have joined others returning to this ministry in 2024.

Renk Ministry Partnership—Jackie Kraus

The Covenant of Relationship between St. Michael's and Renk Diocese, Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) was formed in 1998. In 2001, the Diocese of Chicago, inspired by the ministry and mission of St. Michael's, entered into a Companion Diocese Relationship with Renk. The Vestry and Renk Diocese renew our Covenant annually, and Chicago renews its CDR with Renk, by resolution, at Convention every five years. St. Michael's has inspired churches throughout the Diocese of Chicago to partner with churches in Renk, supporting Renk Clinic, building churches, developing a high school, and other income-generating projects. The Outreach Committee of St. Michael's supports the Women's Microfinance Program, making it a vital ministry for families in war-torn South Sudan. "Over 400 women have benefitted from literacy and business training, thus paying school fees, medical treatment, and providing nutritional benefits for their families.

"Women of Renk Diocese recognize your countless deeds. Our friendship has saved many lives, and we are able to save many lives and help people the same way you did to us."

Amer Deng Ayom, Coordinator

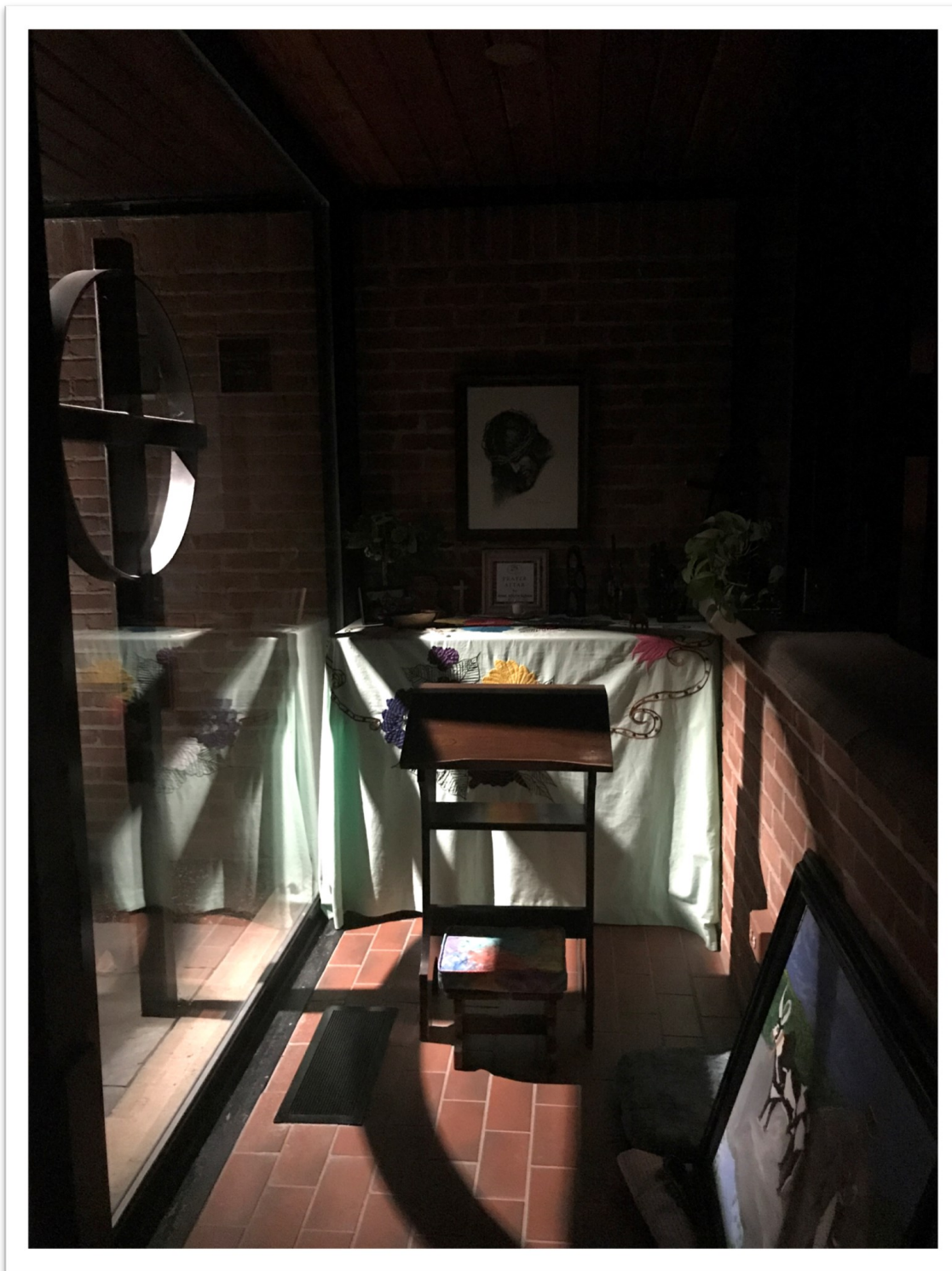
St. Michael's built Renk Bible School, and rebuilt it when destroyed by the government. With our ongoing support, it has trained church leaders, bishops, evangelists, lay people and has reached the level of Renk Theological College, from where the 3rd Bishop of Renk, Rt. Rev. Simon Chuang, graduated. "Renk Theological College community gives you warm gratitude for the continuous support toward our existence as a College." Principal of RTC

The mission of RMP is to uphold the Covenant of Relationship. It links us together by 1) sharing information and prayer concerns; 2) by sending and receiving teams from both sides; 3) by aiding in development through sharing resources. It is a response to God's call to covenant with others, to strive for peace and justice among all people. The Commission on Global Ministry is in conversation with Bishop Paula Clark and Archbishop Joseph Atem concerning a visit to Chicago in October.

For more information about RMP, contact Jackie Kraus, 847-687-5758 or jackie.kraus41@gmail.com, Forest and Lynn Mayberry, 847-305-9534 or ForestMayberry@comcast.net, Sue Beverly, 847-946-4707 or sue44@comcast.net, Dolores Duncan, doloresmduncan@gmail.com

Renk Ministry Partnership

Prayer Station at St. Michael's, outside the communion rail, dedicated to praying for peace in South Sudan.



Outreach Ministries

Rebuilding Together– Brant & Jill Deichmann



April 2024 will be the 2nd year that St. Michaels has sponsored a team to help Rebuilding Together. Our home this year is in Park Forest, Illinois. Mr. Burke, the homeowner, is 83 years old, and has lived in the home for more than 18 years. He moved from the city to be closer to his daughter, and Grand / Great Grand Children.

Rebuilding Together and our team will be focused on “Safe at Home Repairs,” including Storm Door Repair/ replacement, Grab Bars in the Bathrooms, along with Fire / CO2 detectors, and Fire Extinguishers. We will also be repairing the subfloor, door, and faucet in the bathroom. In addition, we have five rooms to update with paint.

We will need 10 -12 St, Michaels Volunteers to help Saturday April 27th for “National rebuilding Together’ day.



Rebuilding Together is a Great Non-Profit with a Vision and Mission that aligns with St. Michaels Outreach efforts.

Our Mission

Repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives.

Our Vision

Safe homes and communities for everyone.

Outreach Team report for 2023- Ann Ryba and Melissa Buckley, co-leaders

Our dedicated and diligent Outreach Team worked on several meaningful projects during 2023, and, as always, St. Michaels' parishioners responded generously with open arms, wallets, and elbow grease.

Our goals are to create hands on volunteer activities, educate parishioners about partner agencies, and make meaningful grants from Outreach Funds. The Outreach budget is designated by the vestry and is traditionally 10% of member pledges and includes designated gifts from members.

This year we sponsored the Reverse Advent Calendar donation drive for CUMALI, Ravenswood Community Services (RCS) and St. Leonard's House. Each collection drive was hugely successful, with donations for agencies exceeding all goals. We were able to clothe and feed over 200 individuals and families, from homeless people to families with hungry children.

Katy's Christmas Baskets made the Christmas season brighter for 20 families from Church of the Redeemer (Elgin) and 14 families from the Revive Center (Chicago). Families ranged from individuals to families of 5 and 6. A special thanks to our LIFT youth who sponsored a family of 10!

Jill Deichmann introduced us to Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago, and a team of 8 from St. Michaels made repairs and painted Leticia's home in Blue Island on April 29. The team also delivered a carload of linens, cleaning supplies and toiletries for her and her 3 sons, all generously donated by St. Michaels members.

Dave Evans led 3 Food Drives, with each collection filling several carloads, delivering to Food for Greater Elgin, RCS, St. Cyprian's Food Pantry and Redeemer Food Pantry. Each delivery is met with open arms, as all food pantries we serve have seen a 30 to 40% increase in need this year.

We welcomed 2 partner agency speakers, Mike Murphy from CUMALI, and Lori Gee from Ravenswood Community Services. Their sermons were inspiring testaments to the vital work with the homeless and the hungry that their respective agencies serve.

The Outreach Team consider the following factors when determining involvement in Outreach activities or organizations:

- Involvement of St. Michael's parishioners
- Effectiveness & efficiency of the organization – ability to meaningfully impact lives
- Maintain a balance of participation: locally, regionally, nationally and globally
- Organizations that promote health & well-being—food, shelter, clothing
- Capacity for parish to fulfill the commitment (in terms of money, time & commitment) over time
- Designation as an Episcopal charity

Outreach grants are made each spring and fall, with The Outreach Team recommending to the vestry for approval. This year your financial gifts to St. Michaels enabled us to grant over \$64,000 to 20 agencies.

Discretionary Funds for Priest	6200
Barr. Area Council Aging (Meals with Wheels)	2500
Barrington Giving Day	2000
Barrington Youth Services	2000
Bishop Anderson House	3000
Bstrong Together	3000
Chalice House	5000
Cumali	3000
Food for Greater Elgin	4000
Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley	3000
Holy Family Ministries	3000
Porch de Salomon	3500
Ravenswood Community Services	4000
Rebuilding Together	3000
Redeemer-Family in Crisis (Elgin)	1500
Revive	3000
South Sudan & Sudan Renk Diocese (Micro Loans)	3000
St. Cyprian's Ecumemical Food Pantry	2500
St. Leonard's House / Grace House Combined	3500
Grace Episcopal Church Emergency Shelter	4000
	64700

We give grateful thanks to Jim Steed who has served on Outreach for many years, working behind the scenes and always giving great counsel to the team during decision-making.

And we thank each and every one of you who gave everything from a box of macaroni and cheese to a Saturday of hard work. Helping others is the lifeblood of our congregation and we are proud to serve you as the Outreach Team.

Sam Adams-Lanham
 Carol Berman
 Melissa Buckley
 Nancy Carney
 Una Colohan
 David Evans
 Sue Ferry
 Bill Ferry
 Kathy Galliher

Amy Hoff
 Ray Kean
 Lou Longo
 Lynn Mayberry
 Forest Mayberry
 Pat Okonek
 Bernice McCarthy
 Ann Ryba
 Jim Steed

Outreach Ministries

Barrington Giving Days–Carol Berman

Barrington Back to School Giving Day is primarily sponsored by the churches in our community. Each year it's held in August at St. Matthews Lutheran Church. This year St. Michael's collected a variety of medium size men's shirts. Our church has been referred to as "overachievers" since we collected twice as many shirts as requested.

This year the program supported 264 families including 527 children. In addition to clothing the children were able to receive gym shoes, backpacks, school supplies and more. The Community Meal grilled 1200 hot dogs and provide snacks and fresh produce to attendees. We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful program.

The Peace & Justice Committee of St. Michael's Episcopal Church – Ellen Lindeen

The new year of 2023 in peace and justice was aptly begun with a keynote (available on Zoom) by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at the “Power of Love” MLK service at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in LA on January 17.

From January through March, some of our parish members took part in the first One Book, One Diocese reading and discussion program. The book was Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas' book, *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter*.

In March, Ellen Lindeen, Chair of the Peace & Justice Committee, served as a delegate for the Episcopal Church to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for Province V from March 3 – 17. Members of St. Michael's supported this journey as Lindeen met with other countries' representatives while advocating for PB Michael Curry's Statement to the UN about gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In April, 9 members of St. Michael's joined Rebuilding Together in Blue Island to restore and revitalize the home of Letitia under the direction and guidance of architect and member, Jill Deichmann and her husband, Brant Deichmann. The same weekend was Province V's Big Provincial Gathering (BPG) which took place in South Bend, IN, with many representatives of the Diocese of Chicago and Lindeen representing St. Michael's.

After a break in the summer with Father Jesse gone, the committee planned a Gun Violence Prevention Sunday for November. National Episcopal Peace Fellowship launched a Season of Pentecost for ending gun violence in 2023. As a peace parish, we supported that initiative. At our service on November 19, member Donna Brooks played guitar and sang, and other music included by Director Sara Torbeck reflected a desire for peace and an end to violence, and prayers for those lost. People who had died as a result of gun violence were named and honored during the Prayers of the People.

In December, we began a letter-writing campaign, lead by member Jay Ward, to government leaders and members of Congress. In the letters, we asked the representatives to remember the importance of caring for every person in our country. In our letters, we call out the proposed cut to appropriations that would make major cuts to domestic priorities. House proposals to change the School Lunch Program (the nation's second largest food and nutrition assistance program behind SNAP), would put children's nutrition (and attendant health and academic performance) at risk. This Program makes it possible for all school children in the United States to receive a nutritious lunch every day. The vast majority of schools participate in the program, providing meals to 30 million children on an average day. In addition, currently around 42 million Americans receive and rely on benefits provided under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which could also be adversely affected by proposed changes to that Program. Please see Jay Ward or Ellen Lindeen if you would also like to submit letters to leaders.

Outreach Ministries

At the end of the year, the diocese announced the One Book, One Diocese: Year two book, *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond, Pulitzer-prize author of *Evicted*. We encourage all members of St. Michael's to join in this common read and for discussions in April/May dates tba.

St. Michael's is also preparing to host the "Uncaged Art" exhibit beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, in the Community Room. The exhibit is comprised of beautiful and inspiring artwork by the children held in the Tornillo, TX Detention Center that opened on June 14, 2018. Over the eight months of its operation, 6,200 children were held in tents in Tornillo, a small border town. Tornillo came to symbolize the mass detention of migrant children. A group of teachers visited the youngsters, inviting them to express their pride in their countries of origin through art, and the children produced 200 pieces of art. When the Tornillo detention center closed, officials began throwing out the artwork. A local Catholic priest recovered 29 pieces, and later stated, "What came through in the art was the strong spirit of these young men and women...who, even under those conditions, were still inspired to do something beautiful." The exhibit is sponsored by the Diocesan committees: Sanctuary Task Force, Anti-racism Commission, Hispanic Affairs Committee, and Peace & Justice Committee. The goal is to share the experience of immigrant detention, particularly of children, through art. The exhibit is free; there will be a reception on Sunday, Feb. 18 after the 10:00 am service. For hours when the show will be open, see the Sword.

We are thrilled to have the owners of Conscious Cup join our parish and committee. Owners Roseanna and Jack Shipley ethically source coffee by acquiring socially, economically and environmentally sustainable coffees from around the world, respecting the people who produce the coffee from farm to your cup. The company currently has 14 "outstanding" ratings of 90-94 points from Coffee Review, including two global Top 30 citations. They are providing coffee for our Uncaged Art Reception on Feb. 18. We are grateful!

We continue to try to do the work God has given us to do.

St Michael's Acolyte Ministry— Wes Kimes



wkimes@comcast.net or 312-320-9435



Welcome:

We are grateful for the presence and for the service of our Acolytes at St. Michael's. **All are welcome to serve:** The ministry is open to **all children** (usually 4th grade and older) and **all adults**.

It is our hope that, in serving as an acolyte, you will learn more about the service and the liturgy, and that your service will help form a spiritual foundation that will be with you all **of your life**.



Purpose:

Our purpose for creating a strong acolyte program at St. Michael's is to more actively include people of all ages in worship each Sunday and to cultivate a community of service in our church.

We hope it will familiarize you with what happens during our worship service and that you will develop a sense of confidence to serve in other ways in our church

Our role as Acolytes:

We assist the Priests and Deacon at the Lord's Table and serve the congregation throughout the service, leading by our example of dignity and reverence. Acolyte means "one who serves". Acolytes are instrumental in helping the services to run smoothly. Acolytes are leaders in the church through the examples they set at the altar



Roles and opportunities include:

Crucifer – leads the procession, carrying the Cross.

Torch Bearers – accompanies the Cross throughout the worship service.

Senior Acolytes – assist the Priest and Deacon in setting the Altar for communion.

Book Bearer – assists the Deacon by holding the Gospel Book during the Gospel reading.

Thurifer – carries the incense (carrying the Thurible) and assists the Priest and Deacon.

Ministry Support:

Wes Kimes serves as the leader of the Acolyte Ministry, providing mentoring, training and support.

Please reach out to inquire, to volunteer, or for any support.

Wes Kimes: wkimes@comcast.net , or 312-320-9435.

A Prayer for Acolytes:

O God, our gracious Father: Bless the Servers of your church that they may serve before your altar in reverence and holiness, that they may attain, with all your saints and angels, the joy of serving you and worshipping you before your Heavenly Altar, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you!

Worship Ministry

The Altar Guild–Kristin Krueger/Kerry Kean

“Give me an open mind, o God, a mind ready to receive and to welcome such new light of knowledge as it is Thy will to reveal to me. Let not the past ever be so dear to me as to set a limit to the future. Give me courage to change my mind, when that is needed. Let me be tolerant to the thoughts of others and hospitable to such light as may come to me through them.”

The altar guild continued to use this prayer to help us stay focused on our work. We are the priest’s guild and we help prepare for the services at St. Michaels. Our tasks are varied and many. Our work involves everything from flowers to linens to the wafers and wine. Our dedicated group continued to work faithfully every week to make sure the church was prepared for the holidays and regular services. It is because of their generous and dedicated spirits that we have been able to do our work. We have resumed our monthly meetings and enjoy the time we have together. This year we are grateful for the new members who have joined and we welcome anyone who is interested to reach out and learn more.

Worship Ministry

The Usher Ministry– Sammy Semerad

Ushering is the ministry of hosting parishioners and guests at St. Michael's Church worship services. Ushers greet parishioners, newcomers, and guests, Gather the offering, and assist the congregation during communion. Ushers are also responsible for tabulating the offering after each service.

I want to thank the following individuals for serving as ushers at the 10 AM service during the 2023 year: Clark Beverly, Kirk Chan, Jeff Cross, John Davis, Bill Ferry, Ellen Lindeen, Greg Mears, David Rauschenberg, Sandy Rauschenberg, Christina Robbins, and Greg Smith.

Worship Ministry

Worship Ministries – TechCrew

Rob Wisnowski, (Video Streaming and Support)

Kevin Taylor,(Video Streaming and Support)

Jim Roche, (Video Streaming)

Wes Kimes (Sound)

What we do...

- Provide LIVE video Streaming on the internet for Sunday's Services (8,10), as well as some Funerals, Baptisms, Weddings or other special events.
- Provide LIVE video Services on TV monitors in Hallway's for overflows as well as our Community Room and Library.
- Provide a video library recoding of the full services, links to the Bulletins, Sermons, and Music events.

Why we LIVE Stream and provide recordings for OnDemand

By live streaming St. Michael's services, we can make our services as well as sermons accessible to a wider audience, which can help increase attendance and engagement. Live streaming also provides a convenient option for people who are away, out of town, vacation for the winter, or just new to our church and want to get a feel for our community before attending in person.

Worship Ministry

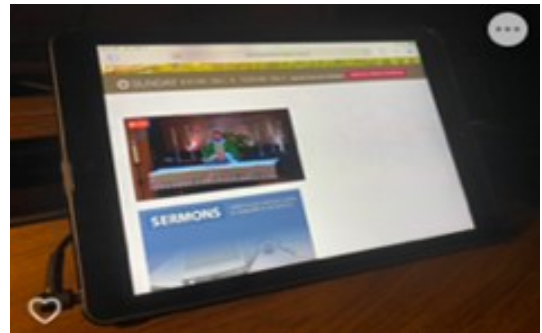
Worship Ministries – TechCrew

There are approx. **33 LIVE Attendance Views** Streaming each Sunday and ...many more OnDemand Views over the week and month.

Examples of Equipment and Streaming Process

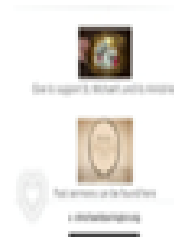
Audio System

Video Streaming



Examples of WEBSITE and Media Libraries and Recordings OnDemand go to:

[St Michael's Episcopal Church of Barrington IL \(stmichaelsbarrington.org\)](http://stmichaelsbarrington.org)



Worship Ministry

Music Ministry Report- Sara Torbeck, Music Director

Music and Worship at St. Michaels has been alive and thriving this past year. Huge thanks to ALL of our dedicated singers and instrumentalists who give so generously of their time and talents in sharing rich and varied worship music with our congregation. Thanks also to Jerry Egger, our organist, for his dedication and musicianship leading hymns, preparing weekly preludes, postludes, and accompanying the various ensembles. Big thanks as well to Marian and Maria Fadrowski and their students for a wide selection of beautiful preludes they have shared with us over the past year.

This year has seen musical collaborations with local churches including Salem United Methodist Church, Community Church of Barrington, Atonement Lutheran Church, as well as singers from the Chicago Master Singers Choir. The ecumenical collaboration amidst the Barrington churches has been very rewarding and I look forward to seeing those collaborations continue.

As part of the 75th anniversary, we had a great fundraising effort by several parishioners to purchase a new hymnal resource for us, the **Wonder, Love, and Praise** green hymnals. It has been a joy to add these rich hymns to our collection. Thank you as well to the 'music ministry angels' who have donated named gifts to the music ministry to help sponsor our special guest musicians throughout the year. Your pledges make a huge impact in our ability to bring in these top-notch musicians to enhance the worship service.

Highlights of 2023:

Ecumenical Taize' Service- It has become an annual tradition to hold a special musical service midway through Lent on Laetare Sunday. This year we hosted singers from several Barrington churches for a Taizé musical service with candles and chants focused on Joy and peace.

* On March 10, 2024 at 5:00pm we will continue this Lenten tradition with a Choral Evensong service from the Anglican tradition featuring readings, sung psalms, and choral anthems

Holy week 2023

Last year's holy week featured Children's Choir and Bell Choir **Palm Sunday** in the Community Room before a Bagpipe procession around the church!

The adult choir sang a special anthem on **Maundy Thursday**, Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjelo with extra singers from the Chicago Master Singers.

Good Friday we travelled to Salem United Methodist for a special service on the last 7 words of Christ, singing with their choir.

Easter Vigil featured our adult choir and Bell Choir with readings, hymns, and musical responses. It is a service not to be missed!

Worship Ministry

Easter Morning featured a brass quintet and the adult choir on an inspiring rendition of 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' by Gilbert Martin and a community sing-along of the Hallelujah chorus by G.F. Handel.

* Get your Handel Scores ready, the Hallelujah chorus will return for postlude 2024!

Pentecost- Our festive service with ladybugs and lively music included a surprise visit from a Barbershop quartet who serenaded us as we enjoyed our hotdogs after the service!

VBS- The last week of July our church hosts a Weeklong Vacation Bible School complete with singing and dancing! Favorite songs from this year 's splash into scripture was 'He's got the whole world in his hands' and 'Who built the ark?'

St. Michaels day, Bishop Paula visit- My heart still rejoices with memories of this service! Our bell choir played an outstanding prelude, and the Sunday School Children processed in red robes ringing bells. Children's Choir and the Adult choir sang together on the anthem Praise to the Lord by *Deborah Govenor*.

All Souls Requiem- This year our church hosted an inspiring ecumenical Requiem service featuring music from Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. We had close to 30 singers in a combined choir with a chamber string ensemble and amazingly talented harpist. This service was well attended by the local Barrington Community.

Lessons and Carols- This year's Lessons and Carols had a 'Renaissance' feel with lilting traditional advent carols accompanied by bell choir, organ, oboe, and flute. The church was lit with the aisleabra candles and put everyone in the festive spirit!

St. Nicholas Day Brass Band- Another unique tradition of our parish, our pick-up brass band (of all ages!) serenaded our coffee hour with Christmas carols, accompanied by a special visit from St. Nick himself!

Christmas Eve- We hosted 2 Christmas Eve services this year (after our morning Advent 4 services!) at 4:00pm and 10:00pm. 4:00pm was a revolving service of many wonderful musicians including Bell Choir, Brass accompanying some of the hymns, Children's Choir, Tina Summerfield singing a beautiful solo, and our Gabis trio of strings for communion and Silent Night. 10:00pm, our traditional 'high mass', featured a professional brass quintet and the adult choir singing a John Rutter favorite, Mary's Lullaby. We were reflecting among the staff how we could still feel the resonance of the low tuba from that amazing evening service!

Epiphany pageant- Rounding out our Christmas season is our traditional Epiphany pageant, directed by Marisa Boynton and produced by Kim Curtis. The show featured student musicians, narrators, and actors of all ages telling the story of the Kings and Shepherds led by the star and angels to visit baby Jesus. The kids did an awesome job and even our youngest members had spoken lines this year (outside of our baby sheep who maintained great composure through the show!)

Worship Ministry

I hope this list spurs meaningful memories of services from the past year, and inspires you to try some new ones in the coming year! If you would like to join in on the fun, please reach out to Sara Torbeck storbek@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

Our ensembles include:

Adult Choir- Rehearsals Thursdays 6-7:30pm, Sundays 9:15am for 10am services. This choir supports congregational hymn-singing, leads psalms and service music, and offers thematic anthems throughout the year for Sundays and special services.

Summer Occasional Choir- All the fun with less responsibility! No processing, no robes, just great music and fellowship. We rehearse Sunday morning 9:15 for the 10am service day of as a drop-in choir. All are welcome!

Intergenerational Bell Choir- Rehearsals Saturdays 9-10:10am. This group features children, parents, and community members of all different levels that prepare music to play ~ every 4-6 weeks for Sundays and special services. Our group has expanded to cover 3 octaves, there is still room for more. No experience necessary.

Children's Choir- Rehearsals Saturdays 10:20-10:50am. This is our first year back post-covid as a separate ensemble from the Sunday School Music program and has been a joyful addition to the music ministry. 1st grade-12th grade.

Sunday School Music- Meets most Sundays 9:50-10:00am learning songs related to the lessons for the week! Big thanks to Doug Torbeck for leading Sunday School Music time with his guitar!

Instruments- We are fortunate to have many gifted instrumentalists who have shared their talents at St. Michaels including our pick-up brass band, bluegrass ensemble, strings, wind players, and guest pianists who have greatly enhanced our worship.

Many thanks to all musicians for sharing your gifts and making joyful noises to the Lord!

Worship Ministry

Lay Eucharist Ministry—Sandy Rauschenberg, Coordinator

The Lay Eucharist Ministers (LEM's) have the responsibility to assist with the 2 worship services on Sunday morning. Their main responsibility, for the 10:00 AM service, is to serve the chalice of wine to the parishioners as they come forward for communion. This requires changing in to the appropriate vestments (cassock with surplice). As a result of the pandemic, we are also continuing to offer an option to take plastic cups rather than direct from the Chalice. This requires recruiting a few people from the congregation each Sunday, to serve the cups outside of the altar, from small tables that are set up for this purpose only. In addition to serving, the 10:00 LEM's are also called upon to perform various functions in the absence of an Acolyte, i.e., light candles, carry the crucifix or torches, assist with the silver and bells, or any other functions determined as needed, by the Verger. The volunteers for the 8:00 AM service, perform all LEM functions, in addition to Acolyte requirements. They also serve as the Lector.

Currently there are 12 volunteers, of which 7 serve on a regular basis for the 10:00 AM service and 3 for the 8:00 AM service. We do our best to assign 2 LEM's per week at the 10:00 AM service, with only 1 at the 8:00 service. We have 2 volunteers who also serve as readers in addition to the LEM responsibilities at the 10:00 service.

LEM's are also requested for any special services during the year, i.e., funerals, weddings, and non Sunday services during Advent and Lent.

As LEM's our volunteers have the fulfilling opportunity to participate and become more familiar with the service at St. Matthews. As a goal, a suggestion would be to attempt to obtain more volunteers for this very important responsibility.

I am very thankful to all of our LEM volunteers and prayerfully request that we increase in numbers.

Worship Ministry

Lector Ministry—David Rauschenberg, Coordinator

The lectors have the responsibility at the 8 and 10 AM services to read the lessons and the Prayers of the People. A number of the 10 AM lectors also function as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) on the same or different Sundays. The 8 AM lectors also function as LEMolytes. There is usually one lector per service. There are rare occasions where more than that are needed, but generally it is a one/week requirement.

Currently there are 17 members of our congregation who are active, many of whom are frequent readers (at least once per month). There are no regular meetings of the lectors. Due to the limited number of 8 AM service LEMolytes these individuals are assigned more frequently than their 10 AM counterparts.

Being lectors allows the participants in this ministry to be intimately involved in church services. I believe, if asked, all would say that it is a truly enjoyable and fulfilling experience to be able to participate in this fashion. I think it also helps to bring the service order to the congregation by having congregants playing a major role in the services.

There are no firm goals other than to continue to honor our commitment to this ministry and to the parish. Over the course of 2023, the scheduling for Lectors and LEMs was consolidated into one document

I am very proud and thankful for all our lectors and their willingness to serve the church.

Building and Grounds—Kim Curtis, Facilities Manager

St. Michael's I would like to announce we are looking good! This was the year for contributions and ongoing support. These anonymous donations have been instrumental in maintaining and enhancing our church. Some of the key highlights are improving and repairs to the handicap ramp. After careful consideration, Fortune Restoration will be our ongoing repair company for the ramp. Their work is guaranteed and will be able to maximize our investment. Olsen Tuckpointing from Barrington worked on the tuckpointing of the brick. We also had electrical lighting work completed with Gemma Consulting, major parking lot repairs with Parisi Paving and Sealcoating, along with regular upkeep maintenance for the church, rectory and Sturtz house. Both the rectory and Sturtz house received new driveways.

This year we had a change in staff. After many years of employment, Rich Hornickel retired from the Sexton position. In October, Denis Mesic joined us as the new part-time Sexton. He is so eager to help and is really enjoying meeting everyone and learning as much as he can about the building. Our cleaning crew Carmen and Migual also retired this year. We are pleased to now have Blast cleaning crew who will clean both the Preschool and church.

We remain committed to ensuring that our church building and grounds continue to be a welcoming and sacred space for worship, fellowship, and community engagement. Your ongoing support is invaluable, and we look forward to the future of the continued enhancement of our shared spiritual home. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Building and Grounds volunteers, staff, and contributors who have played a role in maintaining and improving our church. Thank you to Bill Ferry, Brant Diechmann, Carol Hebert, and Rob Wisnowski for all your support, advice, wisdom, and time.



St. Michael's